



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: July 7, 2004

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XXII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 2 to acquire APN 2075-027-010 in Acquisition Area F (Woodland Hills) and APNs 4416-008-033, 4422-033-011, and 4431-022-003 in Acquisition Area H (Pacific Palisades), Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 2 to acquire APN 2075-027-010 in Acquisition Area F (Woodland Hills) and APNs 4416-008-033, 4422-033-011, and 4431-022-003 in Acquisition Area H (Pacific Palisades), Los Angeles.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has reserved four tax defaulted parcels (APNs 5565-025-002, 5565-026-022, 5570-012-016, and 5570-012-023) for purchase from the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector. These parcels are included in either Chapter 8 Agreement Number 2286 or 2358. The Citizens Oversight Committee of the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2 adopted a resolution recommending that the MRCA add the parcels to the District No. 2 Engineer's Report at its April 13, 2004 meeting. The MRCA adopted a resolution adding the parcels to the District No. 2 Engineer's Report at its June 2, 2004 meeting.

The attached table lists the properties reserved by the MRCA, their respective Chapter 8 agreement number, the cost of each parcel, number of acres, jurisdiction, and a brief note to identify their location. Each parcel is shown in the accompanying set of maps. The maps show the relationship between the parcels and the surrounding land.

APN 2075-027-010 is located in Woodland Hills south of Fallbrook Avenue. The parcel is part of a small habitat patch that extends northward from the Cerrillos Drive habitat block, where the District has already funded the acquisition of five properties. This parcel will provide permanent open space to the northwestern-most corner of

the District at a very low cost. The parcel comprises 0.38 acres for a price of \$5,124. The parcel will require brushing next to two houses.

APN 4416-008-033 is located along Posetano Road in the Castellammare area of Pacific Palisades. The parcel is south-facing and is located near two large blocks of parcels on the Engineer's Report. The parcel comprises 0.09 acres for a total price of \$1,378. The parcel will require minimal brushing next to one house.

APN 4422-033-011 is located immediately south of Department of Water and Power land near Topanga State Park and Will Rodgers State Historic Park. The parcel is part of the large core habitat block of Topanga State Park that provides excellent habitat for wildlife. The parcel comprises 0.20 acres for a total price of \$1,033. The parcel will require less than 750 square feet of brushing that has been kept up-to-date.

APN 4431-022-003 is located in the Palisades Highlands adjacent to Topanga State Park. The parcel is part of the large core habitat block of Topanga State Park that provides excellent habitat for wildlife. The parcel comprises 13.80 acres for a total price of \$87,975. The parcel will require limited brushing next to approximately four houses.

It is expected that the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector will send the bill to acquire the parcels as soon as three months for the first two parcels and eight months for the later two parcels. The MRCA will then have 14 days to pay the bill once it is received.